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Food and Nutrition

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Cap 3

FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS INCREASE

THE FOOD STAMP allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia will increase on July 1 from \$142 to \$150, based on February food price statistics. The Food Stamp Act, as amended by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-86), requires that coupon allotments be adjusted twice a year to reflect changes in the prices of food as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Allotment adjustments are based on the cost of the USDA economy food plan, which is computed from Bureau of Labor Statistics food prices. The cost of the economy food plan for February was \$149.30 for a family of four with schoolchildren. Accordingly, the value of the coupon allotment will increase from \$142 to \$150. The maximum income eligibility standard for the four-person household will increase from \$473 to \$500. (See chart on page 3 for other household sizes.)

Food stamp allotments will also increase on July 1 in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, based on the cost of the economy food plan in those areas. In Alaska, the coupon allotment for a family of four will increase from \$172 to \$192; the maximum income eligibility standard for that size household will go from \$573 to \$640. In Hawaii, the allotment will increase from \$170 to \$186; the maximum income eligibility standard will

go from \$567 to \$620. And in Puerto Rico, the allotment will go from \$122 to \$144, and the maximum income eligibility standard from \$407 to \$480.

INCOME POVERTY GUIDELINES ANNOUNCED FOR 1974-75

THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE has issued income poverty guidelines for the 1974-75 school year to help school boards and administrators in advance planning and budgeting for child nutrition programs.

The guidelines are the minimum eligibility standards for free meals and free milk for children in any school participating in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, or Special Milk Programs, or receiving federally donated foods. For the first time, income poverty guidelines will be used to determine eligibility for free milk in the Special Milk Program.

Using these national guidelines, each State educational agency sets income poverty guidelines to determine which children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and free milk in that State's schools. State guidelines cannot be lower than national levels but can be up to 25 percent higher for free meals and milk, and up to 50 percent higher for reduced-price meals. (The 1973-74 maximum eligibility level for reduced-price meals is 75 percent higher than USDA guidelines,

but the 1-year legislative authorization for the higher level is slated to expire June 30.)

The new guidelines are about 6.2 percent higher than 1973-74 guidelines. USDA adjusts its guidelines based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index, consistent with the way the Bureau of Census updates its statistics on poverty levels. Guidelines are higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam because living costs are higher in those areas.

The following chart shows the new USDA guidelines in the 48 States, District of Columbia, and Territories:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Minimum Level for Free Meals, Milk</u>
One	\$ 2,330
Two	3,060
Three	3,790
Four	4,510
Five	5,180
Six	5,850
Seven	6,450
Eight	7,050
Nine	7,610
Ten	8,150
Eleven	8,690
Twelve	9,230
Each additional family member	540

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CHILD FEEDING

FNS HAS INVITED the public to offer comments to be considered in a comprehensive review of the Federal-State-local child nutrition programs, called for in legislation passed last November (P.L. 93-150). In making the announcement, FNS requested recommendations on the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs, including alternatives to present program structure.

Comments should be sent to the Child

Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

SPECIAL FOOD SERVICE REGULATIONS AMENDED

THE AMENDED REGULATIONS for the Special Food Service Program for Children incorporate several changes suggested by public comments.

The major modifications provide greater increases over last year's reimbursement rates for both the summer and year-round phases of the program.

In the summer program, the regulations:

- Increase the maximum reimbursement rate from 30 to 36 cents for a regular meal, and from 10 to 12 cents for supplemental food (snacks).
- Increase the maximum rate for special assistance from 60 to 73 cents for a regular meal, and from 15 to 19 cents for supplemental food. This special assistance is available in instances where all or nearly all participating children need free meals and the sponsor cannot meet this need.

In the year-round program, regulations:

- Increase the maximum reimbursement rate from 30 to 36 cents for lunch or supper; from 15 to 18 cents for breakfast; and from 10 to 12 cents for supplemental foods.

- Increase special assistance for programs which serve especially needy children from 60 to 73 cents for lunch or supper; from 20 to 24 cents for breakfast; and from 15 to 19 cents for supplemental food.

Changes in the summer program became effective May 6. The amended regulations will take effect on July 1 for year-round programs.

FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Effective July 1, 1974)

48 States and D.C.

Number of Persons in Household:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Monthly Coupon Allotment:

\$46	\$82	\$118	\$150	\$178	\$204	\$230	\$256
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Monthly Net Income

Monthly Purchase Requirement:

\$ 0 to 19.99	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
20 to 29.99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 to 39.99	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
40 to 49.99	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
50 to 59.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
60 to 69.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
70 to 79.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
80 to 89.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
90 to 99.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
100 to 109.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
110 to 119.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
120 to 129.99	24	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
130 to 139.99	27	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
140 to 149.99	30	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
150 to 169.99	33	38	40	41	42	43	44	45
170 to 189.99	36	44	46	47	48	49	50	51
190 to 209.99	36	50	52	53	54	55	56	57
210 to 229.99		56	58	59	60	61	62	63
230 to 249.99		62	64	65	66	67	68	69
250 to 269.99		62	70	71	72	73	74	75
270 to 289.99		62	76	77	78	79	80	81
290 to 309.99			82	83	84	85	86	87
310 to 329.99			88	89	90	91	92	93
330 to 359.99			94	95	96	97	98	99
360 to 389.99			100	104	105	106	107	108
390 to 419.99			100	113	114	115	116	117
420 to 449.99				122	123	124	125	126
450 to 479.99				126	132	133	134	135
480 to 509.99				126	141	142	143	144
510 to 539.99					150	151	152	153
540 to 569.99					150	160	161	162
570 to 599.99					150	169	170	171
600 to 629.99						172	179	180
630 to 659.99						172	188	189
660 to 689.99						172	194	198
690 to 719.99							194	207
720 to 749.99							194	216
750 to 779.99							194	216
780 to 809.99							216	
810 to 839.99							216	
840 to 869.99							216	

For each additional household member over eight add \$22 to the eight person allotment.

FOOD PROGRAM PEOPLE

RICHARD L. FELTNER recently became the new Assistant Secretary for Consumer and Marketing Services.

Since August 1970, Mr. Feltner had been head of the department of Agricultural economics at the University of Illinois. He has also served as assistant dean and director of resident instruction at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University, and as assistant professor of agricultural economics there.

He received an M. S. in agricultural economics from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from North Carolina State University.

OFF PRESS

- Two new publications are available for sponsors and site personnel participating in the Special Summer Food Service Program for Children.

The "Sponsor Handbook" (PS-1082) is a detailed 95-page guide to running an effective program. It tells how to apply, set up a program, train personnel,

and keep needed records.

The "Site Handbook" (PA-1081) is a tool for sponsors and personnel who administer summer programs. It describes procedures for serving meals, keeping records, and meeting meal requirements.

State departments of education and FNS regional offices are now distributing these handbooks.

- "Eating better, feeling good, food stamps make the difference." Variations of this musical theme are included in a recording of radio public service announcements. The album contains 19 food stamp messages--17 in English, 2 in Spanish--ranging in length from 10 to 60 seconds. Copies of the album are available to cooperating State agencies through the five FNS Regional offices.

- POLOKALAME O FAAILOGA E FAATAU AI MEA TAUMAFA is the title of the food stamp fact sheet (FNS-77) in Samoan. Copies are available from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

